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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/878,107	06/08/2001	Kouji Shirai	P/2041-62	2375

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EXAMINER

DAO, MINH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2618

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/878,107

Applicant(s)

SHIRAI, KOUJI

Examiner

MINH D. DAO

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hutchison, iv et al. (US Patent 6,449,476) in view of Hoffman (US Patent 6,622,017) and further in view of Larner et al. (US 6,104,638).

Regarding claim 3, Hutchison teaches a portable telephone (see fig. 1, item 101; col. 3, lines 26-29) in which software features in a main program of the portable telephone can be corrected, the telephone comprising: a read only memory (see fig. 1, item 116) in which the main program for the portable telephone is stored, a volatile memory (see fig. 1, item RAM 114). However, Hutchison fails to teach means for loading a patch into the volatile memory, the patch intended to be substituted for a portion of the main program which portion contains a bug. Hoffman, in an analogous art, teaches a means for loading a patch into the volatile memory, the patch intended to be substituted for a portion of the main program which portion contains a bug (col. 6, lines 60-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

was made to provide the teaching of Hoffman to Hutchison in order to download a software patch for the existing module as suggested by Hoffman (col. 6, lines 63-65).

Still regarding claim 3, the combination of the teaching of Hutchison and Hoffman fails to teach means for copying the software features into the volatile memory to create a backup patch to be stored in the read only memory. Larner teaches a method of using erasable non-volatile memory for storage of changing information by replacing or overwriting the old or corrupted data in segments of a non-volatile memory by copy of parameters stored in RAM (see figs. 1-2; col. 1, lines 46-64; col. 2, lines 16-30; col. 3 line 66 to col. 4, line 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the teaching of Larner to Hutchison and Hoffman in order for the combined system to perform, by segment, data updates or recovery after being corrupted as taught by Larner.

Regarding claim 4, the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner teaches that the portable telephone of claim 3, further comprising means for replacing a portion of the main program which contains the bug with the backup patch (reference Hoffman, col. 6, lines 60-65).

Regarding claims 5 and 10, the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner teaches means for replacing a portion of the main program which contains the bug with the backup patch (reference Hoffman, col. 6, lines 60-65), but the combination

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fails to teach means for erasing the backup patch after it has replaced the portion of the main program which contained the bug. However, it is commonly known in the art that memory space of a mobile phone often needs to be available for additional storage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to erase or delete the used backup patch software in order to yield more memory for future needs of the mobile phone.

Regarding claim 6, the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner teaches the portable telephone of claim 3, wherein the main program stored in read only memory is stored in blocks (reference Hutchison, see fig. 2, item 1 16, col. 5, lines 36-42).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner teaches the portable telephone of claim 6, wherein the main program stored in read only memory, is rewritable in units of a block (reference Hutchison, see fig. 2, item 1 16, col. 5, lines 36-42).

Regarding claim 8, the claim has the same limitations as that of claim 1, therefore is interpreted and rejected for the same reason set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claim 9, the claim has the limitations as that of claim 1, and additionally discloses the limitation "periodically executing at least a portion of the main program"

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which the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner fails to teach. However, it is obvious in the art that every time the mobile phone is turned on, at least a portion of the software of the unit is executed. Therefore, claim 9 is rejected for the same reason set forth in claim 1 and for the obviousness mentioned above.

Regarding claim 11, the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner teaches the method according to claim 9, wherein the patch is transmitted to the portable telephone from a communications network (reference Hutchison, see fig. 1, items Programmer 122 and Communication Link 133).

Regarding claim 12, the combination of the teachings of Hutchison, Hoffman and Larner teaches the method according to claim 9, wherein the patch is transmitted to the portable telephone from a personal computer (reference Hutchison, see fig. 1, item 122; col. 4, lines 27-44).

Response to Arguments


3. Applicant's arguments filed 03/14/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 3-12 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Larner et al. (US 6,104,638).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MINH D. DAO whose telephone number is 571-272-7851. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW ANDERSON can be reached on 571-272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Minh Dao 
AU 2618
May 17, 2006



Mathew Anderson
Supoerviser AU 2618